CBi NEWSLETTER
January - July 2018

Connecting Business initiative (CBi) is transforming the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises. CBi was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit and celebrated its two-year anniversary on 24 May 2018. This newsletter provides an update of the activities during the first half of 2018.

Emergency response activities by CBi Member Networks
During the first half of 2018, six of the CBi Member Networks have responded to disasters.

![Disaster icons](image)

### Côte d'Ivoire floods in June 2018
Côte d'Ivoire experienced floods in June 2018. The CBi Member network, led by the General Confederation of Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI), organized an information sharing meeting between the private sector, government and other humanitarian actors to plan private sector engagement in response to the floods. Subsequently, the private sector donated food, water, sanitation kits, medicines and cash to the affected populations in presence of Minister of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Fight Against Poverty, Professor Mariatou Kone.

### Fiji Tropical Cyclones Josie and Keni in April 2018 and outbreak of meningitis
During the month of April, two cyclones, Josie and Keni struck Fiji and affected the local communities and businesses. Both cyclones caused flooding, nine people died, and 8,000 people were displaced. The Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council was fully engaged and sent out information updates to all its members. The network also provided relief support and helped in recovery. In addition, there was an outbreak of meningitis in Fiji. The Council members supported the vaccination campaign by providing cold storage for the vaccines.

### Madagascar Tropical Cyclones Ava in January 2018
and Eliakim in March 2018 and outbreak of pneumonic plague
During the first half of 2018, two cyclones struck Madagascar – Ava, affecting 161,000 people and Eliakim, affecting 51,000 people. During these two disasters, the CBi network, Madagascar Private Sector Humanitarian Platform (PSHP), attended the cluster coordination meetings and National Disaster Risk Management platform meetings to ensure a good information flow to the private sector and effective mobilization of private sector resources. The members responded according to their sectors, including damage assessment of telecommunication infrastructures, distribution of food and non-food relief items, materials for rehabilitation of destroyed huts, upgrade of the BNGRC internet outflow, etc. PSHP members have also continued to raise awareness among their employees on the plague outbreak. By the end of April 2018, some 2,671 cases of the plague had been recorded since the first case of the plague season was reported in August 2017, including at least 239 deaths. The network has also been engaged with the public sector to update the National Business Continuity Plan for disease outbreaks. Read more

Philippines Mayon Volcano eruption in January 2018 and recovery from the siege of Marawi city
The network in the Philippines, led by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), spearheaded the “Aksyon Para sa Mayon,” a relief operation for families affected by the phreatic eruption of Mayon Volcano in Albay. As the co-secretariat of the United for Marawi consortium, the network also conducted a field visit in Marawi City together with the US-Philippines Society last February and has since then been leading programs in the areas of livelihood, education, water and sanitation, health, startups and entrepreneurship. Read more

Sri Lanka floods in May 2018 and drought
The CBi network, led by the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka (A-PAD SL) responded to the drought in 2018 and floods in May 2018 working directly with 114 partner organizations from the private sector, the government, military, the UN and I/NGOs. The preparedness and awareness programs implemented during the last two years improved the response and the private sector deployments were coordinated with the military.
The private sector emergency relief to the stranded communities was coordinated with the government, humanitarian agencies and grassroots organizations. The activities included a media partnership campaign consisting of panel discussions, interviews and awareness programs on TV and radio. The Sri Lanka network hosted and facilitated 27 meetings among the private sector, government and the humanitarian sector and held 36 disaster risk reduction and resilient awareness programs reaching 4,185 direct beneficiaries. Read more

Vanuatu Cyclone Hola in March 2018
The Vanuatu Business Resilience Committee (VBRC) engaged in reviewing the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster’s (FSAC) standard operating procedures in preparedness for Tropical Cyclones before the Tropical Cyclone Hola in March 2018 and Tropical Cyclone Donna in May 2017. This also entailed validating FSAC’s recommendations for food distribution packs. The validation exercises allowed for the appropriate forms and quantities of food packs to be supplied by local food retail outlets that are in close proximity to affected areas. Additionally, the VBRC was instrumental in linking up private sector suppliers with the National Disaster Management Office for the provision of non-food items and food stocks.

Prevention, preparedness and recovery activities

Côte d’Ivoire
The Côte d’Ivoire network has held regular meetings and in addition to the information campaign around the flood response has been preparing for a workshop on “Collective Private Sector Action to Address Complex Emergencies” to be held on 31 August that will enable participants to learn about private sector engagement in these contexts, exchange experiences and provide input for the development of a global Guidance Toolkit.

Fiji
In addition to the emergency response activities, the Fiji Business
Disaster Resilience Council membership grew to about 290 members from the private sector/business communities, government agencies, civil society organizations and development partners during the first half of 2018. The Council provided inputs in the review of Fiji National Disaster Management Act and Plan and coordinated the training for 34 local businesses to develop their own Business Continuity Plan. Read more

Haiti
In Haiti, the network, led by AGERCA, has continued its coordination efforts between the private sector and the national disaster risk management system. AGERCA also celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Activities included: monthly newsletters, a movie night on tsunamis followed by a discussion, supporting the Caribbean Forum on building resilience to disasters (including a session on business continuity planning), disaster awareness training to a new member company and organizing a nation-wide school contest on disaster risk reduction together with the Direction of Civil Protection and insurance company AIC. Read more

Kenya
The Humanitarian Private Sector Partnership Platform (HPPP), the CBI Secretariat, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and other partners are preparing for a workshop on “Collective Private Sector Action to Address Complex Emergencies” that will enable participants to learn about private sector engagement in these contexts, exchange experiences and provide input for the development of a global Guidance Toolkit.

Madagascar
In addition to the emergency response activities, the Private Sector Humanitarian Platform (PSHP) signed a collaboration agreement with Antananarivo Urban Community to strengthen private sector engagement and improve the network’s warehouse capacity for prepositioning stocks. The network also updated its contingency plan, implemented the PSHP business continuity plan, revitalised the national Disaster Risk Management...
communication network and participated in the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) training initiative by OCHA. The network also supported the CBi network in Côte d’Ivoire and conducted a mission to Mauritius to energise a Private Sector Humanitarian Platform in the Indian Ocean region. Read more

Mexico
The network in Mexico, led by the National Support Center for Epidemiological Contingencies and Disasters (CENACED), continued the disaster recovery programs following the earthquakes in 2017. This includes building 905 houses in Morelos, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Puebla and Mexico City. The network also organised workshops on volunteerism in disaster situations, supported MSMEs and civil society in preparing business continuity plans and improving their resiliency against shocks. CENACED also participated in the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Reduction held in Cartagena, Colombia. Read more

Myanmar
In Myanmar, the private sector participated in the first national Earthquake Simulation Exercise organised by the National Disaster Management Committee, which brought together almost 140 participants from various sectors (government, military, UN and international organisations, private sector, etc.). In February, the private sector collaborated with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to organise a joint Business Resilience Forum to explore ways to engage the private sector on how to strengthen disaster preparedness and business resilience. The private sector, government and civil society also participate in the Myanmar Preparedness Partnership – a tripartite forum to explore synergies around national disaster preparedness. At the regional level, the Myanmar Private sector also participates in meetings convened under the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP).

Pacific
The CBi network, Pacific Business Resilience Network, led by the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), has been active in the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP). This includes the new regional Pacific Resilience Partnership Taskforce where the CBi Pacific network represents private sector views. The network also hosted a business breakfast to discuss resilience, joined the Post Disaster Needs Assessment workshop as well as multiple forums to discuss resilience of the private sector in the Pacific.

Philippines
In the Philippines, the network led by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) inaugurated the world’s first private sector-led national emergency operations centre on 4 April 2018. (Watch a video interview in this link). The network also conducted various training activities and courses (e.g. public sector continuity management, community-based disaster risk reduction and management), attended a training on Strategic Emergency Logistics organised by the World Food Programme, attended an orientation and training of trainers on business continuity held in Nepal, and hosted a roundtable discussion and consultation on House Bill 6075 (An Act Creating the Department of Disaster Resiliency). In April, PDRF—together with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and donor Embracing the World (ETW)—also celebrated the culmination of a two-year scholarship program for students affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Read more

Sri Lanka
The flood response in May built on earlier trainings and simulation exercises on flood rescue, psychosocial training for first responders and psychological first aid and CPR training. In April and May the network worked with the US Navy’s Military Sealift Command-operated hospital ship, the largest hospital ship in the world, and helped to carry out a series of community clinics, surgeries, symposiums and training programs with the support of local medical entities. 40 volunteers from A-PAD SL participated during the two-week event as translators, assisting foreign doctors to communicate with the local communities. Read more

Turkey
The network is jointly managed by TURKONFED and UNDP Turkey in collaboration with other institutions including AFAD and CSR Turkey. With financial support from the European Union ECHO and technical support from the CBi Secretariat and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the network hosted a workshop on 26 July focusing on complex emergencies. The workshop enabled participants to learn about private sector engagement in complex emergencies, exchange experiences and provide input for the development of a global Guidance Toolkit on collective private sector engagement in complex emergency contexts. The workshop will be followed up with capacity building activities to support Turkish business networks to engage in the Syria refugee crisis in Turkey.

**Vanuatu**

The Vanuatu network, the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC), which was launched last year, has made good progress in setting up the network structure, convening regular meetings, engaging members, conducting baseline analysis of private sector engagement, and formulating the work plan for the network. Activities during the first half of the year included meetings with humanitarian partners especially related to inclusion into the cluster coordination system, organising the Private Sector Climate Finance Tradeshow on 5 April and follow up activities, advocating for private sector inclusion in national policy processes, writing articles to multiple channels, holding meetings with the private sector, preparing an after action report on the volcano eruption, and participation in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment workshop.

Follow more CBi Member Network updates at [www.connectingbusiness.org](http://www.connectingbusiness.org)

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**Upcoming webinars**

**CBI online consultation - Guidance Toolkit for supporting private sector networks in complex emergencies**

15 August, 2pm Geneva time

With the support of the European Union ECHO and in
collaboration with other partners, CBi is developing a Guidance Toolkit for collective private sector platforms to engage companies in addressing complex emergencies. This webinar will provide an overview of existing guidance, good practices and emerging trends in private sector engagement in complex emergencies. More importantly, participants will be invited to provide feedback on the draft outline of the Guidance Toolkit, share case examples and exchange lessons learnt in the area.

Read more and register here

Past webinars

Introduction to the Humanitarian System
18 January 2018
CBi and the UN Global Compact co-convened a webinar aimed to help businesses and business networks understand the building blocks of the humanitarian system, navigate between different global, regional and local actors and explore the role of private sector support.

Read more and watch the recording here

Human Rights in Complex Emergencies
12 June 2018
The webinar - organised in partnership with the Connecting Business initiative (CBi), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) - provided an overview of human rights related issues and concerns that the private sector should be aware of when operating in complex emergencies and addressing natural and manmade hazards. The webinar highlighted tools, guidance and good practice examples.

Read more and watch the recording here
Upcoming events

The UN General Assembly side event “Partnering with the Private Sector: Using Data to Improve Humanitarian Response”
New York, USA / Date and time TBC
The 73rd session of the UN General Assembly will open on 18 September 2018. The first day of the high-level General Debate will be Tuesday, 25 September 2018, and is scheduled to last for nine working days. During the UN General Assembly, CBi will co-organise a side event “Partnering with the Private Sector: Using Data to Improve Humanitarian Response” with the Centre for Humanitarian Data and other partners. Read more

UN Private Sector Forum 2018: Building & Investing in Peace for All
New York, USA / 24 September 2018 12:30-15:00
Convened by Secretary-General António Guterres, the 2018 UN Private Sector Forum will provide an important opportunity for business leaders to join key Heads of State and UN Principals at the table for high-level discussions on peace, a major agenda item of the 73rd regular session of the UN General Assembly. The event is led by the United Nations Global Compact and CBi will be one of the organising partners. Read more

New Reports

https://mailchi.mp/2f7472ff4808/cbi-newsletter-january-july-2018?e=2065c7bf70
CBi Progress report 2017

The CBi Progress Report 2017 provides an overview of the achievements in 2017, results of the first CBi Annual Survey and presents new focus areas in 2018.

Read the report here

In a crisis, companies are better off working together article

The article discusses the role of the private sector in disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts and introduces ideas how companies can collaborate better. It is co-written by Wendy Woods and David Young from the BCG, Rudolf Muller and Marcy Vigoda from OCHA and Marcos Neto from UNDP.

Read the article here

Agenda for Humanity - Connecting Business initiative Partner Paper 2017

The partners who made pledges to support the different initiatives launched at the World Humanitarian Summit report on their progress each year. This report provides an overview of the progress made by the Connecting Business initiative and its partners in 2017.

Read the report here

Disaster Response in Asia and the Pacific – A Guide to International Tools and Services

This report explains how international and regional tools and services support disaster response in the Asia-Pacific. It provides an overview of the guidance frameworks, humanitarian actors, international coordination mechanisms, tools and services and early warning.

Read the report here
New CBi videos

What's the role of innovation in disaster management and humanitarian work? View the video here

What is impact measurement and why is it important in disaster management and humanitarian response? View the video here

How can the private sector support humanitarian actors in complex emergencies? View the video here

What motivates an entrepreneur to get engaged in collective action? Story from Fiji. View the video here

What can the private sector, governments, and humanitarian actors do to improve the resilience of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

What can the private sector do to address climate change? View the video here
New work streams 2018

**Innovation**
Less than one percent of humanitarian aid is focused on investing in innovation. There is a lot of potential for learning and scaling up. Several CBi Member Networks have already started to pilot innovative approaches and technologies. In 2018, CBi will disseminate information on the existing innovative solutions and technology to improve resilience, hazard predictions, early warning systems and how innovations can improve disaster response and recovery. Read more [www.connectingbusiness.org/innovation](http://www.connectingbusiness.org/innovation)

**Impact measurement**
The results of the CBi Network Assessment show that the lack of systematic monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement hinders the ability of private sector networks to demonstrate systematic evidence of impact, mobilise new members, and strengthen their overall efforts. In 2018 CBi will provide more support in this area. Read more [www.connectingbusiness.org/impactmeasurement](http://www.connectingbusiness.org/impactmeasurement)

**Complex Emergencies**
According to the 2018 Global Humanitarian Overview, conflict will continue to be the main driver of humanitarian needs in 2018. While a body of knowledge and guidance material exist in relation to private sector engagement in disaster management and natural disasters, there is a significant gap in relation to collective private sector engagement in complex emergencies.

(SMEs)? [View the video here](https://mailchi.mp/2f7472ff4808/cbi-newsletter-january-july-2018?e=2065c7bf70)
CBi, with support from the EU, is developing new tools for these more challenging operating environments. Read more
www.connectingbusiness.org/complexemergencies

Past events

World Economic Forum
Davos, Switzerland / 23-26 January 2018
CBi and partners joined the World Economic Forum in Davos at the Sustainable Impact Hub. Read more

CBi Annual Event
Geneva, Switzerland / 6 February 2018
11 CBi Member Networks and dozens of partners and other participants participated in the CBi Annual Event organized during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in February 2018 in Geneva. The CBi Member Networks and Partners came together to identify opportunities for collaboration and to inspire collaboration with the private sector in disaster management. Read more

Pre-DIHAD workshop: Working together for “Sustainability of Humanitarian Response”
Dubai, United Arab Emirates / 4 March 2018
Given the steep increase in humanitarian needs and requirements, the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition (DIHAD) pre-workshop programme focused on “Working together for Sustainability of Humanitarian Response”. CBi presented at the “Role and engagement of the different other actors” session. Read more

ICVA Annual Conference: Navigating the Nexus
Geneva, Switzerland / 20 March 2018
CBi was a Lead Discussant in Session 2 at ICVA’s Annual Conference: Navigating the Nexus presenting the work the CBi Member Networks do and what opportunities there are for collaboration with NGOs.
New York, USA / 19 June 2018

The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) has been an essential platform for discussing the activities and issues related to strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. CBi Member Networks representative Morika Hunter provided private sector views in a panel discussion on “Strengthening local capabilities for sustainable outcomes and local resilience- contribution of humanitarian action”. Read more

US Chamber of Commerce Foundation 7th Annual Building Resilience through Private-Public Partnerships Conference
Washington DC, USA / 24-25 July 2018

CBi moderated a session “Global Unity of Effort” at the USCCF 7th Annual Building Resilience through Private-Public Partnerships Conference with speakers from the UPS Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, Americares. The discussion focused on how companies have banded together to reduce and resolve complex issues through partnerships and coalitions (networks). Read more

Get engaged!

Join the CBi online portal now to connect with experts and stay up-to-date on latest news and developments!

Support CBi Member Networks and ongoing emergency response efforts.

Reach out to CBi for other opportunities.

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